

6 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Operations

THROUGH : Assistant for Plans and Development

SUBJECT : Suggestion No. 61-689-AC/STL for Information Printing Device

REFERENCE : Ops Officer's Request re Subject Device, Routing Slip dated 11 April 1963

1. The subject device is for the continuous printing of code words or similar information on the border of either 70mm, 5" or 9" films or paper by photographic means. It is intended that the printing would be outside of the normal imagery information area.

2. A strip of film containing the code word or other desired information is prepared as a negative transparency and attached to the circumference of the plastic drum, the maximum length of the strip is about 9".

3. In operation the device functions essentially as a miniature continuous strip or "sonne" printer. The printing light, which is intensity controlled, is contained in a stationary plastic lens mounted in the center of the drum. As the strip on the outside of the drum, in contact with the printstock, passes the light beam it reproduces on the stock the information on the drum. The positioning of the information is dependent on contact friction of the drum with the moving stock and is not intended to maintain a critical position with respect to the frame or fiducial marks of the negative.

4. This item is not in manufacture, however, three units have been fabricated by ACIC for evaluation of the suggestion and ACIC has given an award to the suggestor; one of these models could be made available to us for test if we so desired. The estimated cost of the item in commercial production is about [REDACTED] So far as I have been able to determine there has been no evaluation of the suggestion by other than ACIC.

5. It is my studied opinion that this device will adequately print code word or other similar information on the border of aerial photographic prints, where the space required is not already occupied by titling or other information supplied by the camera system.

Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

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6. It is recommended that one of the devices be obtained on a loan basis to determine if we have in fact a requirement for it.


Development Branch, P&DS

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